

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 CCO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 PC-15 DRC-01 /166 W

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P R 241711Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 394

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USINT ALGIERS

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMNAVTRACOM KENITRA

COMNAVCOMMSTA SIDI YAHYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR XF XI MO

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN PROPOSES MEETING OF ARAB FOREIGN
AND DEFENSE MINISTERS

1. ACCORDING OFFICIAL MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY DISPATCH AFTERNOON
OCTOBER 24, KING HASSAN HAS SENT MESSAGE TO KINGS AND CHIEFS
OF STATE OF ARAB STATES AND TO SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ARAB
LEAGUE PROPOSING THAT A MEETING OF ARAB FOREIGN AND DEFENSE
MINISTERS BE HELD IN RABAT OR "IN ANY OTHER PLACE THEY
CHOOSE" IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW AND TO REACH
A COMMON POSITION.

2. IN MESSAGE, KING STATES THAT CEASEFIRE HAS TAKEN PLACE AS
RESULT OF SUCCESSES REACHED BY ARAB ARMIES, BUT THAT
CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION HAS TROUBLED UNITY OF ARAB RANKS AND
RISKS HAVING VERY GRAVE CONSEQUENCES. KING EXPRESSED HOPE
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THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON PRINCIPLE OF HOLDING

MEETING AND THAT MEETING CAN TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. KING'S ACTION APPEARS BE RELATED AT LEAST IN PART TO LOCAL REACTION TO CEASEFIRE, WHICH SO FAR MOSTLY CAUTIOUS AND AMBIVALENT. THUS PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE BUT WITH RESERVATIONS, WHILE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS BEEN BASICALLY OPPOSED. RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMENTARY BROADCAST OCTOBER 23 (CARRIED IN PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS OCTOBER 24) SAID THAT RESOLUTION COULD BE BASIS FOR A SECURE AND LASTING PEACE IF ISRAEL IMPLEMENTS IT, AND CALLED RESOLUTION VICTORY FOR ARABS IF IT IS FULLY CARRIED OUT. OPPOSITION PRESS, ON OTHER HAND, SUGGESTS THAT CEASEFIRE IS TRICK TO CHEAT ARABS OF THEIR VICTORY. TYPICAL OF THIS LINE IS "AL ALAM" EDITORIAL OCTOBER 23 (CARRIED FBIS) WHICH SAYS THAT RESOLUTION CONSISTS MOSTLY OF "ELASTIC PHRASES AND VAGUE PROMISES," AND SUGGESTS THAT WHILE EGYPT AND SYRIA MAY HAVE TO ACCEPT CEASEFIRE, THE STATES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN BATTLE, INCLUDING MOROCCO, SHOULD NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. NOT AMBIVALENT AT ALL, IN CONVERSATION AT AIRPORT WHILE WAITING TO WELCOME AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL DESCRIBED CEASEFIRE AS VERY SERIOUS MISTAKE AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT ARABS SHOULD KEEP ON FIGHTING.

4. RABAT AND CASABLANCA CONTINUE QUIET, BUT WE DO SEE SCATTERED INDICATIONS THAT UNEASY CALM WHICH HAS PREVAILED HERE WHILE ARAB VICTORIES WERE MAKING HEADLINES IS NOW SHOWING SIGNS OF WEAR. SEVERAL MINOR INCIDENTS HAVE INCLUDED CATCALLING DIRECTED AT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE, WITH "L'OPINION" FEATURING STORY FROM TETOUMAN THAT "SEVERAL MOROCCAN CITIZENS OF JEWISH FAITH HAVE LEFT THE MOTHER-COUNTRY" WITHOUT PAYING TAXES. RUMORS OF CASUALTIES AMONG MOROCCAN TROOPS INVOLVED IN GOLAN FIGHTING CONTINUE TO MAKE THE ROUNDS IN RABAT. POLITICAL GOSSIP SHEET "AL KAWALIS" CLAIMS THAT SOME RABAT FAMILIES HAVE ALREADY HELD FUNERAL SERVICES FOR THEIR SONS KILLED ON FRONT, INDICATING THAT NOTIFICATION TO SOME NOK'S MAY HAVE BEEN MADE. DEATH IN BATTLE OF COLONEL ABDELKADER ALLAM, DEPUTY COMMANDER MOROCCAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO SYRIA, NOW APPEARS CONFIDENTIAL

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TO BE WELL ESTABLISHED WITH HIS FUNERAL REPORTEDLY HELD IN RABAT LAST WEEK. IN WHAT MAY BE EFFORT TO CHANNEL PUBLIC CONCERN AND ANGER, GOM IS RESTARTING BLOOD DRIVE AND TAKING UP COLLECTIONS FOR BENEFIT OF TROOPS IN CITIES AND COUNTRYSIDE. NEUMANN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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